

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2017 – 6:30 p.m.

COUNCIL CHAMBERS – OLEAN MUNICIPAL BUILDING

IN ATTENDANCE WERE: ALDERMEN WITTE, ANDREANO, DOUGHERTY, CRAWFORD, SMITH, AND GEORGE. OTHERS: MAYOR WILLIAM AIELLO; AL UTECHT, CITY CLERK; NICHOLAS DICERBO, JR., CITY ATTORNEY; KERI KERPER, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM COORDINATOR, AND TIFFANY TAYLOR, MANAGERIAL CONFIDENTIAL ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY.

Alderman Smith called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and asked that the record show that all Aldermen were present except Alderman Gonzalez, who was excused.

1. Finance & Bills

A motion to approve Finance & Bills was made by Alderman Andreano, seconded by Alderman George. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried. Referred to Regular Meeting for Resolution.

2. PL #81-17: (Aiello) That the Common Council authorizes the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Clark Patterson Lee for engineering services in connection with Walkable Olean – Phase II, Main Street (North Union Street to Front Street).

Alderman Crawford stated that the Council has been presented with a document from Ms. Kerper with the information that they had asked her and Mr. Ring to obtain at the last committee meeting. They were interested in finding out what would happen with funding if they were not to complete the portion of the project that entails the demolition of the City Garage.

Mr. Crawford continued in stating that he doesn't feel that he can make a decision tonight, and that the Council needs to discuss this further. The project is a great idea, but financially, the Council needs to look at needs versus wants.

Alderman Witte added that we just completed Phase I of the Project, and she feels that we need to slow down and take a step back before we consider Phase II. She is not comfortable moving forward due to funding issues. She feels that it is great to receive grants, and it certainly helps the City, but everyone needs to understand that grants come with a local match, and that means the City needs to come up with money for a portion of the Project. She is not comfortable with City financials at this time to do this Project.

Alderman George stated that he agrees, and that this should be postponed for further discussion. Alderman Andreano stated that she likes Alderman's Crawford comment that we need to look at needs versus wants. If we earmark the money needed for this proposed project, then there will be less money for issues that are "needs" in each of the wards. She recommends making a list of priorities in each ward, as well as in the City as a whole, as well as a wish list of projects to be

done. Then, costs and funding can be looked into, and the Council can determine its priorities for funding.

Alderman Crawford stated that he would like sit down and have a serious Strategic Planning discussion after the first of the year. This includes looking at what monies are coming due down the road, and when long term funding will be paid off. We also need to be careful, as we do not want to burn bridges with State and Federal funding sources.

Alderman Witte stated that a street in her ward has natural springs running under it, that causes many issues with the roadway. Engineering is already done for the road fixes, but nothing has moved forward. We need to take a look at these projects that have been put on the back burner to see what our priorities are. We need to make sure that we are financially solid before we move forward as well.

Alderman Smith stated that he feels very similar to the rest of the Aldermen. The grants are wonderful, but it requires a big commitment of the City. We need to step back, take a deep breath and look into finances before we move forward.

A motion to postpone PL #81-17 indefinitely was made by Alderman Smith, seconded by Alderman Witte. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried.

3. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Smith, seconded by Alderman Andreano. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:40 p.m.